



Montana  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

Office of Public Instruction  
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TO: Superintendents/Authorized Representatives for Public Schools Serving  
Hutterite Students  
FROM: Judy Snow, State Assessment Director  
RE: Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test Spring 2014  
DATE: October 31, 2013

On October 3, 2013, State Superintendent Denise Juneau announced that the Montana Office of Public Instruction has submitted a testing waiver request to the U. S. Department of Education in order to avoid double-testing of Montana students this school year and to allow schools to smoothly transition to a new statewide computer adaptive assessment in 2015.

This waiver request is for Montana to substitute the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium field test in grades 3-8 and 11 in English Language Arts and Math for the CRT in grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Math in the spring of 2014. The CRT-Alternate in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading and math will continue in the spring of 2014 as will the Science CRT and CRT-Alternate in grades 4, 8, and 10.

As you may be aware, the Smarter Balanced Assessment is an online, individually administered, adaptive assessment that requires a level of technology capability including internet access. Superintendent Juneau commented that, “. . .with the move from paper and pencil to online tests, this school year provides us with an opportunity to assess our technology readiness and prepare for the official rollout of the new state assessment in 2015.”

There will not be a paper/pencil option for the Smarter Balanced field test in 2014 (there may be one available starting in 2015, but that has yet to be determined). We know that this may pose a challenge in some public schools serving Hutterite students.

As a superintendent/authorized representative, you will have the following options for the spring of 2014.

1. Administer the Smarter Balanced field test online. This could be accomplished by using another facility (school, public library) nearby where students can go to participate.
2. Administer a paper/pencil version of the CRT in Math and Reading

As part of the flexibility, we will be required to report which option each public school serving Hutterite students will utilize. Therefore, I am requested that you complete the attached form for each public school serving Hutterite students. There is no need to report for public schools not serving Hutterite students, as there will be no paper/pencil option for these schools.

Please complete and sign the attached form (one per school) and return it by November 15, 2013 to:

Ashley Makowski  
Montana Office of Public Instruction  
P. O. Box 202501  
Helena, MT 59602-2501  
FAX: 406-444-0743  
406-444-3511  
[amakowski@mt.gov](mailto:amakowski@mt.gov)

If we do not receive a response for each public school serving Hutterite students by November 15, the school will need to administer the online Smarter Balanced field test.

The Smarter Balanced Practice test can be found at

<http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

NOTE! The practice test can ONLY be opened in the following browsers:

- Mozilla Firefox
- Google Chrome
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 10
- Apple Safari

Information about technology specifications can be found on the OPI website:

<http://opi.mt.gov/groups/trt/index.html>

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you.

406-444-3656 or [jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov)